(a) whether Government are aware that while Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is taking care of 6,000 monuments, out of which only 26 are World Heritage Sites as compared to 41 in Italy and 30 in France;

(b) if so, whether it is attributable due to paucity of funds or lack of skilled and technical staff, or any other specific cause; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to overcome these hurdles and the prospective national heritage becomes more comprehensive?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India takes care of 3667 monuments and sites of national importance. There are 26 World Heritage Sites in India, as compared to 41 in Italy and 30 in France.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Sites are inscribed in the World Heritage List in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Committee. Under the present guidelines, a State Party can submit a maximum of only two nominations per year for World Heritage Status of which one site must be a natural site.

For 2007, India has proposed inclusion of Red Fort, Delhi as a World Heritage Site. In addition, India has submitted a tentative list proposing 19 cultural and natural sites for their future inclusion in the World Heritage List.

Financial package to RRBs

1521. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regional Rural Banks have requested Government to provide a one-time financial package of Rs. 2,674 crores to wipe out their accumulated loans;

(b) whether it is a fact that 40 Regional rural Banks have a regularized net worth;

(c) if so, whether a concrete strategy has been developed to help the 40 Regional Rural Banks;

(d) what are the reasons for Government in neglecting the RRBs; and

(e) the steps proposed to help them as was done for large PSU commercial banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 31st March, 2006, out of 133 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), 40 RRBs had negative networth to the extent of Rs. 1718.43 crores.

(c) to (e) The consolidation of Regional Rural Banks sponsored by the same Bank in a State was initiated in September, 2005. In the process, many weak RRBs have been amalgamated with strong RRBs of the same sponsored bank. Besides, various other steps, *viz.*, Development Action Plan (DAP)/Memorandum of Understandings (Mos), Organisation Development Interventions (ODIs), skill upgradation, lending through SHG route, etc. have been initiated by NABARD to make such RRBs sustainably viable. RRBs have also been permitted to take up non-fund business to enhance their profitability. 187 RRBs have been recapitalised to the extent of Rs. 2,188 crore by the stakeholders. Besides various policy changes have been effected to enable them to attain sustainable viability. As a follow up of the budget announcement for the year 2007-08, RRBs which have a negative networth will be considered for recapitalization in a phased manner.

Sixth Pay Commission

1522. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) by what date the Sixth Pay Commission report is expected;

(b) the number of meetings the Commission held so far; and

(c) the aspects covered in these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Sixth Central Pay Commission was constituted on 5.10.2006. The Commission is required to submit its report within 18 months from the date of its constitution.

(b) and (c) As on 8th March 2007, ten meetings of the Sixth Central